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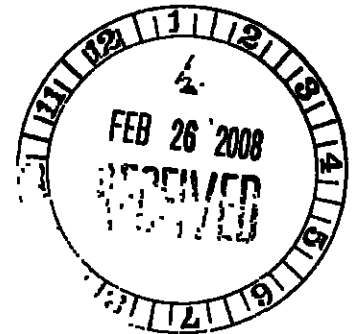
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*NOT ADMITTED IN THE
STATE OF OREGON

February 26, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024



221686

**RE: Providence and Worcester Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – Slatersville Secondary Track, Docket No. AB-254 (Sub-
No. 9X) (Woonsocket, RI and Blackstone, MA)**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

In the Board's decision in this docket served April 24, 2007, P&W was directed to report to the Section of Environmental Assessment regarding any consultations it had with the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office ("RISHPO") and the Massachusetts Historic Preservation Office ("MASHPO"). We have attached a letter dated January 8, 2008 from Edward Sanderson, Executive Director of RISHPO, addressed to the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W") indicating that neither RISHPO nor MASHPO have any objection to the abandonment of the portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track that is the subject of the pending proceeding.

Accordingly, P&W respectfully requests that the Board remove the condition included in the decision served April 24, 2007 that required the railroad not to consummate the abandonment or initiate any salvage activities until the Section 106 process had been completed.

As P&W desires to consummate the abandonment at the earliest possible date, we respectfully request that the Board give this matter its expedited consideration.

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If you have any questions concerning this, please do not hesitate to contact me

Very truly yours,


Edward D. Greenberg

Attachment

cc: Vickie Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Marie Angelini, Esq



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
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8 January 2008

Mr. Jonathan Meindersma
Assistant General Counsel
Providence and Worcester Railroad Company
75 Hammond Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

RE: Proposed rail line abandonment
Slatersville Secondary Branch
Woonsocket, Rhode Island


Dear Mr. Meindersma:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission staff has reviewed the information that you have provided on the Providence and Worcester Railroad's proposal to abandon a 1.1 mile-long portion of its Slatersville Secondary Track, in Woonsocket, Rhode Island and Blackstone, Massachusetts. This information includes a determination by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC).

The MHC has determined that the abandonment is "unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources in Massachusetts." Jeffrey Emidy, Project Review Coordinator for this office, examined the right-of-way and has determined that there are no significant structures present on the Woonsocket section of the right-of-way. Based upon our review, it is our conclusion that the proposed installation will have no effect on significant historic properties. Therefore, we have no objection to the abandonment of this portion of the Slatersville Secondary Track.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions please contact Jeffrey Emidy, Project Review Coordinator of this office.

Very truly yours,


Edward Sanderson, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer